

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, December 28. 1710

SUCH Is the Iniquity of the Times, that Men will not be brought to join Hands in Things Univerſally neceſſary, becauſe they differ in Things of leſs Moment: We have two fatal unhappy Inſtances of this, now before us; *viz.* 1. Our *High-Flyers*, exaſperated by their private Pique at the *Diſſenters*; becauſe theſe will not be Church-Men, thoſe will not have them be Chriſtians; becauſe theſe cannot come up to Ceremony, thoſe will not reckon them Orthodox in Doctrin, but like Good Mr. *Clark*, of a Town not a Hundred Mile from *North ſheilds*, would ſubmit his Life, Wife, Eſtate, and Religion to his ſuppoſ'd *Tyrannical Sovereign*, but would not ſub-

mit to be a *Presbyterian*, and would rather Reſiſt, if he was aſk'd to be a *Whig*, than a *Mahometan*; 2. Our other Inſtance is of thoſe, who aim at the Ruin of the Publick Credit, in order to carry on their Party Diſputes——I do not mention this with Retrospects upon any, whether it ſuits paſt People, or preſent People, or may reſpect future People, let the Perſon that fits the Coat take the Coat.

Credit in the Publick, and Charity in Religion, are of General Concern, and 'tis every Man's Duty to Maintain and preſerve them with all their Power, tho' any other differing Interests ſhould interfere —— The Publick Credit is a perfect Neuter, Credit

Credit is neither *Whig* or *Tory*, *High-Church* or *Low-Church*, *Court-Party* or *Country-Party*, but the common Parent of the Nation's Prosperity, and claims the Homage and Duty of every Subject — He that would destroy our Credit, does not only let in the Enemy Treacherously to Assault us, as *Dalila* did the *Philistines* upon *Sampson*, but like the same Whorish Traytor, first cuts off those Locks in which lies the Charm of our Strength, and the Terror of the Enemies.

Why do not you *Tories* and *Whigs* burn one anothers Houses, sink one anothers Ships, and cut one anothers Throats? It were not at all more Guilt, than to destroy by our private-Strife, the Credit of the Nation, by which alone these Enemies are kept out, who would do all these — Credit is to the Nation, what *Nero* desir'd all the People of *Rome* to be, one General Mass of Bodies, with one only Head, that he might have the cutting off the Throat of it — In this respect, the whole Nation has but one Head, and he that would destroy the Credit, cuts the National Throat of this Kingdom — Credit is the Health of the Body Politick, he that Wounds our Credit, Poisons the whole Frame, let the People divide into what Factions or Parties they think fit; do the *High Flyers* aim at Tyranny, the Superstitious Bigot at *Popery*, the *Non-furor* at the *Pretender*, the *Tory* at the *Tolleration*, the *Trimmer* at the *Occasional Bill*? Do the *Whigs* Aim at the New Ministry, the New Ministry at the Old? Do the *Presbyterians* Malign the *Episcopal Church*, and vice versa, the *Episcopal Party* the *Presbyterians*? And so on, of all our Numberless Divisions — These, all have their direct opposite Points, which they are levell'd at; but he that would pull down Credit, runs a Muck at Mankind, makes War with *Britain*, *Qua Nation*, shoots at Random to blow up the World, and is the declar'd destroyer of the whole Kingdom, and every particular Person in it — He is the Common Enemy, a true *Ismaelite*, has his Hand against every Body, and ought to have every Mans Hand against him.

Metinks I can incur no Man's Censure from this — I Aim it at none, but the Persons Guilty — And at them all, of every kind, whether *Whig*, *Tory*, *Jacobite*, *High Flyer*, or by whatsoever Names distinguish'd, that are Guilty — You are all so far in a Confederacy with *France*, in a Conspiracy against your Native Country; I doubt not but of many it may be said, as the Blessed Apostle said of others, *Acts* 3. 17. And now Brethren I wot that through Ignorance you did it, and for the Information of such it is, that these Things are said; this or that Argument may be brought, to extenuate the Negative Practice of some, who withhold their Assistance from the Publick Credit — That they cannot join with such or such a Party.

But pray, Gentlemen, will you consider, Is our Publick Credit the great Bulwark to defend us against *France*, or is it not? Nay, Is it the only Bulwark against *France*, or is it not? Is the Credit of the Nation the great Magazine, out of which the Stores of the War must be fetch'd? And will any Thing but the Strength of Credit end this War? Is this Contention likely to be decided by the longest Purse, or by the longest Sword? Will *France* be ever beaten into Peace, but by the decay of these Sinews? Will he ever want Men, if he does not want Money? Had we been able without our Credit, to have carry'd the War on half the Time we have done it? Can we, by the Strength of all our Money, *la Mode de sponger*, only excepted, carry on the War two Years more without Credit? Is not then Ruining our Credit, giving us up to *France*? If the King of *France* were ask'd, whether he would rather choose to have our Army beaten, the Prince of *Savoy*, and Duke of *Maribrough* Prisoners, and our Fleet deliver'd whole into his Hands, or the Publick Credit of *England* and *Holland* broken, and Irrecoverably destroy'd — I presume to say from very good Grounds, and from my own Sense of that Monarch's Politicks, he would certainly choose the latter.

If then the Advantages to the General Good of the Nation, the Prosperity to the Constitution and Government, the Advancement of your private Estates in the keeping up the Price of Funds, and preserving Credit cannot move you, at least let the Sense of Honour to your Nation, Duty to your Country, Love to your Posterity, and Loyalty to your Sovereign, Influence you, against a Treacherous delivering all up to the Cruel Enemy, that we are now Engag'd with; what Concern can the Contentment of Parties have, that can Balance this? What can the Quarrels among the Seamen be, compar'd to sinking the Ship?

Two Women were observ'd in a Neighbourhood to be always Fighting, Scolding, and calling one another all the Names they could think of, and with all the Spleen and Malice they were capable of; it happened that there was a House on Fire in the Street, by which they were equally in danger — The she Devils join'd their Force to quench the Fire, but Scolded, call'd Names, and carry'd on their private Spight all the while, with as much Fury as ever — And every now and then as they came near one another, there was, *Work you Whore, and give them Water you Bitch, help here and be Hang'd to you, and lift there and be D—d to you* — *Well done you Cursed Jade says one, and have a care of your Head you Ugly Whore,* says t'other; when she saw a piece of Timber falling; thus they Rail'd, Scolded, call'd Whore and Jade, but both help'd with all their Might to put out the Fire, for both were alike in the Danger.

We are worse than those common disturbers of Mankind, if we do not pursue the Nature of Things as they did — Remember, Gentlemen, the *French* are upon us; call one another Rogue-Whig, and Rogue-Tory — Damn'd *Presbyterian*, and Devilish *Hig Flyer*, go on with your Billingsgate as you please, and Rail, and Scold, and spit Fire at one another if you will, *who can help that?* But remember the House is on Fire — Credit is, and with it all is at Stake; Work Whig, Work Tory, join

in this, if you join in nothing else, keep up Credit that *France* may not break in, for then you are all undone,

I wish some would enquire strictly, *I mean of those that are willing to own their dissimulation as Things*. Whether it is not possible to preserve their Aversions and dislike at Persons, without putting their Hand to the Ruin of the Publick Credit? For my part, I think it the plainest Case in the World, that they may — They may oppose the New Ministry, or abuse the Old *as they please*, or as they find suits best with the Party they have Espous'd, and yet not fly in the Face of the Credit — It is true, the Wounding the Credit, may Embarrass the New Ministry, but then, Gentlemen, with that, it Wounds the Nation, touches private Families, sinks your own Estates, discourages your Allies, revives your Enemies, weakens the Confederacy, and exalts *France* — Let any considering Christian but place these Things one against another, is there no Way for us to shew our Resentment at Things, and our Contempt of the New Measures? Is there no Way for us to oppose the New Schemes, or run down their Management, but at the Price of all these Things, certainly there may; and as running down the Credit, does not more (or so much) shew your opposing the New Ministry, than it does your siding with *France*; so endeavouring to support Credit, does no way denominate a Man to be Pleading for the New Ministry; but I think it may be thus much better'd distinguish'd

Running down Credit to manifest our Aversion to the New Ministry, shews we have a warmer Side to our Party Spleen, than to the Safety of the Publick

Supporting Credit, tho' in Favour of the New Ministry, to whom we owe an Aversion — Shews a Spirit that prefers the Publick Good to all private Interest whatsoever.

And let any Honest Man Choose for himself — For my part, I am determin'd for the latter.

A D V E R

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